

20th of March, 1815. I almost fancy I am dreaming when I look back on the miraculous incapacity of the persons who were then at the head of our government. The emigrants, who, as it has been truly said, had neither learned nor forgotten anything, came back with all the absurd pretensions of Coblenz. Their silly vanity reminded one of a character in one of Voltaire's novels who is continually saying, " *Un hottime, connne, M<*if*" These people were so engrossed with their pretended merit that they were blind to everything else. They not only disregarded the wishes and the wants of France, which in overthrowing the Empire hoped to regain liberty, but they disregarded every warning they had received.¹ I recollect one circumstance which was well calculated to excite suspicion. Prince Eugene proposed going to the waters of Plombieres to join his sister Itortense. The horses, the carriages, and one of the 'Prince's *aides de camp* had already arrived at Plombieres, and his residence was prepared | but he did not go. Eugene had, no doubt, received intimation of his sister's intrigues with some of the individuals of the late Court of Napoleon who were then at the waters, and as he had determined to reside quietly at the (Vnirt of his father-in-law, without meddling with public

any htwrt, Talleyrand's fom'*/w»ffc*wrw», vol. i, pp 1HO, 100, etc, AB the Duke *»f WtllhiKton said, tin* tiling wanted above all others was a Ministry. "Tinware Ministers, tmt no Ministry" (Talleyrand's *Correspondence*, vol. H. ». 2). Hw* also *thritmt*, vol. ii, pp. 2<|4, 2(55, for the position taken up by Talleyrand whftti Im did rotnrn **. He started an If from a settled point, from the assumption that, after his departure for the Congress of Vienna the (nvernmeni had k«»ik» from otu ^ f«»ly to another." Ho ovon told the (ointo d'Artuis, lu full t'tnjiH'il, ** Hinch* his RoyiU Ifti^hn^HM has placod the dlsous-sitni on that fautin^, Moimkntr luw don« a gr«"-ut deal of harm."

* (>>Hl of th<* ways in which th<i Itoiirhi>nH di^uHtcnl the army was the initiator in which ntilitary rank vviw givt5n to fonnor *dtMt/rfta* who Inul novor Ki*rviMl, *»r who had only wrvt'd in tin* lower ranks, IJoH Marinont and Vilrolli'H put this down to the* terror of Louis XVIII. in a<lopiin^ uniform for Inn own dnyM hmtfad of th(* former dress-oot. Kvory (-ourtier want<^d uniform f and us short hair WUH H/H<> udoptod, thesy nujuircd opatilotn, an<l jiaiiiiHotti^ I'pntilots. For th« oflonm* thus g:iv««n to the ol<l offiCorH woe A/w-innnlt tomo'vii, p. 4<>; rifro//** t*»ui« L p. 20.1; and *Pitymaifre*, p. 172. Another vory «ora jMiunt, w»H cltanging UK* numbw of th« ro^imonts, simply for UK* lovi» of uniformity, hncutiMu sottio of th<» numbori had (Usanpoarud by rcdtiotiuus. ** Afl«r lon^ warn," says Marnumt (tonic vil. p. 74), " tho num« b«r» of n^jn<*nts httvo biromii thair nain<*it to which romornbnuiccs of ao-quircd ^lory bticomn sittarhw], and to tako thinn away was to gratuitously wound iioh'U* and l^»^ititnuto w^ntimonts. Tho first «ot of Napoleon, aflor his rrlurn during thut *Writ Jottwt*, wan to rostoro to ev«ry corps its lost former tumber.*